



## Social and economic impacts of climate change on the urban environment

---

**Author(s):** Gasper R, Blohm A, Ruth M  
**Year:** 2011  
**Journal:** Current Opinion in Environmental Sustainability. 3 (3): 150-157

---

### Abstract:

Urban areas have unique characteristics that render their residents and assets particularly vulnerable to climate change. Many large urban centers are located along coasts or in low-lying areas around the mouths of major rivers, placing economic capital and human populations at risk of climate-related hazards including sea level rise and flooding from severe precipitation. Recent literature illustrates the economic and social challenges facing cities around the world as a result of climate change including energy shortages, damaged infrastructure, increasing losses to industry, heat-related mortality and illness, and scarcity of food and water. These challenges are interrelated. Economic losses make it difficult for residents to maintain their livelihoods and can therefore exacerbate social issues including poverty and hunger. At the same time, some demographic and socioeconomic characteristics of cities can make them especially vulnerable to climate change impacts. This paper reviews current literature on these issues and identifies future research needed to more fully understand climate change in the urban context.

**Source:** <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.cosust.2010.12.009>

### Resource Description

#### Exposure :

weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

Food/Water Security, Food/Water Security, Human Conflict/Displacement, Temperature

**Food/Water Security:** Food Access/Distribution

**Temperature:** Extreme Heat

#### Geographic Feature:

resource focuses on specific type of geography

Urban

#### Geographic Location:

resource focuses on specific location

Global or Unspecified

#### Health Impact:

## Climate Change and Human Health Literature Portal

specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

Health Outcome Unspecified

### **Model/Methodology:**

type of model used or methodology development is a focus of resource

Cost/Economic, Other Projection Model/Methodology

**Other Projection Model/Methodology:** discussion only

**Population of Concern:** A focus of content

### **Resource Type:**

format or standard characteristic of resource

Review

### **Timescale:**

time period studied

Time Scale Unspecified